

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 6, 2003. Claims 31-34, 36, 37, 39-50, 55 and 56 are presented for examination, of which Claims 31, 55 and 56 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 31-33, 36, 37, 39-41, 43, 49, 50, 55 and 56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,720,707 (Konishi et al.), and Claims 34, 42 and 44-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from *Konishi* in view of U.S. Patent 4,670,791 (Murata et al.).^{1/}

After a careful study of the Office Action and the prior art, Applicant finds himself unable to agree with the outstanding rejections, and has not amended the claims, which he strongly believes are allowable for at least the following reasons.

The general background and features of the aspects of the present invention to which the respective independent claims are directed, have been adequately discussed in prior papers, and it is not believed to be necessary to repeat that discussion in detail.

Among other important features of the are, (i) obtaining character data from a scanned image by performing character recognition on the image, (ii) determining the type(s) of the obtained character data, and (iii) displaying the image together with the character data disposed in a frame prepared in response to the determined type(s).

^{1/} While the rejection under Section 103(a) also refers to a "Zamora" document, since the discussion is directed entirely to *Konishi* and *Murata*, and no other mention is made of *Zamora*, it is understood that the rejection is not in fact based on *Zamora*. If such is not the case, of course, the present Office Action should be vacated and a new Action issued.

In contrast, the *Konishi* apparatus displays an image recorded on a microfilm in each of first and second areas of a display unit 6 (see Fig. 4), as is clear from the description, for example, from line 57 of column 4 to line 14 of column 6.

Although the Office Action cites the description of lines 51-55 of column 5 of *Konishi* as teaching the “character recognition means” and “determining means” recited in Claim 31, Applicant strongly disagrees with the Examiner’s reading of this passage.

The cited passage reads, in its entirety:

“As an example, first, second and third pages of the description of q patent specification are respectively stored in the RAMs 42, 43, 44, and first, second and third pages of attached drawings are respectively stored in the RAMs 45, 46, 47.” (bold in the original)

All that that passage says, as afar as Applicant can see, is that three pages of text are stored in three RAMs, and three pages of drawings are stored in three other RAMs.

Nothing in the passage says that the text pages have been subjected to character recognition processing, and nothing suggests that the two sets of pages are stored differently.

Applicant submits that the only reasonable reading of this passage is that the text pages, like the drawing pages, are stored *as images*, and not that any character recognition processing has been performed on the text.

Moreover, as is described at lines 3-50 of column 5 of *Konishi*, in the microfilm, the image of each page can be detected by using a frame mark m1 and a case mark m2, and so a page of text and a page of drawing can be detected by means of these marks. Accordingly, it is certainly not necessary for the *Konishi* apparatus to perform character-recognition.

For at least this reason, Claim 31 is believed to be clearly allowable over *Konishi*.

Moreover, the *Konishi* apparatus, as described from line 51 of column 5 to line 14 of column 6, displays a text page in the first area of the display unit 6 and displays a drawing page in the second area of the display unit 6. However, since *Konishi* does not perform character recognition processing, it certainly does not in any way suggest determining the type of character data present in a text page. Furthermore, the *Konishi* apparatus only says that the entire image of the description page in the first area, and does not in any way suggest disposing character data in frames corresponding to types of the character data, respectively, as in the apparatus of Claim 31.

As explained above, in *Konishi* the "description page" is what is originally recorded on the microfilm. Furthermore, the *Konishi* apparatus displays a drawing page recorded on the microfilm as a page different from the description page. Applicant submits that this certainly would not suggest displaying character data acquired by performing character-recognition, together with an image on which the character-recognition was performed, as is recited in Claim 31.

For all these reasons, it is believed to be clear that Claim 31 is allowable over *Konishi*.

Independent Claims 55 and 56 are method and computer memory medium claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 31, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 31.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a

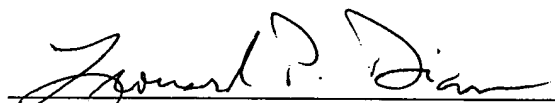
reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from independent Claim 31, and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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